

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Rao S. Bezwada et. al.

Serial No.: 09/780,977

Art Unit: 1617

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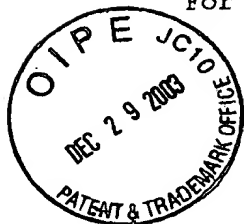
Examiner: E. Webman

For : Method of Preventing Adhesions with Absorbable
Polyoxaesters

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December 23, 2003

(Date of Deposit)

Gladys C. Applegate

(Name of applicant, assignee, or Registered Representative)

(Signature)

December 23, 2003

(Date of Signature)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Supplemental Response

This supplemental response is filed in reply to the Office Action dated 25 November 2003, having a shortened statutory period for reply of One (1) month.

Applicants filed an Amendment on 06 November 2003 in response to a requirement for an election of species contained in the Office Action dated 06 August 2003. In that Amendment, Applicants elected with traverse the method of adhesion prevention utilizing a polyoxaester/glycolide copolymer having a first divalent repeating unit derived from 3,6-dioxaoctanedioic acid (structure IA of claim 1), and second repeating units derived from ethylene glycol (structure II of claim 1) and glycolide (structure III of claim 1). As shown in Example 2, a polyoxaester homopolymer is prepared from the methyl esters of 3,6-dioxaoctanedioic acid and ethylene glycol.

The structure of such polymer is shown at page 37 of the application. The homopolymer then is reacted further with glycolide under conditions to form a polyoxaester/glycolide copolymer.

In the Office Action dated 25 November 2003, the Examiner acknowledged that the response filed on 06 November 2003 appeared to be a bona fide response to the Office Action dated 06 August 2003, but that Applicants inadvertently failed to elect a barrier species.

In response thereto, Applicants hereby elect the species where the barrier is a liquid. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-15 and 23-24 read on this elected species.

In the Office Action dated 25 November 2003, the Examiner also requested copies of all the references cited in the PTO form 1449 filed on 09 February 2001. Applicants will provide copies of these references in a separate paper to be filed shortly.

Applicants respectfully submit that foregoing is a complete response to the office action dated 25 November 2003. Applicants further respectfully submit that claims 1-24 are patentable and respectfully request a notice of allowance to that effect.

Please charge Johnson & Johnson Deposit Account No. 10-0750/ETH1533/BEL in the amounts of \$130.00 for submission of the Declaration pursuant to Section 1.16(e). The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Account No. 10-0750/ETH1533/BEL. This sheet is submitted in triplicate.

Respectfully submitted,



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